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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. ESPINOSA (Mexico)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 100: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/C.3/51/L.4)

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.4

1. Ms. ENKHTSETSEG (Mongolia), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.4, entitled "The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends", and said that Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau, Myanmar and Nigeria had joined the sponsors. She read out some minor changes to the draft resolution.

2. The Secretary-General's report on cooperatives (A/51/267) had emphasized the important role played by the cooperative movement in the social and economic development of all countries. In particular, cooperatives provided an affordable means of empowering economically the poorest and most disadvantaged members of society. The sponsors were therefore convinced of the need to continue, within the United Nations, constructive consideration of the role of cooperatives. The draft resolution urged Governments, relevant international organizations and specialized agencies to utilize fully the potential of cooperatives to contribute to the attainment of social development goals. In particular, Governments must facilitate the development of cooperatives by providing a supportive legal environment.

3. In 1996, the theme chosen for observance of the United Nations International Day of Cooperatives had been "Cooperative enterprise - empowerment for people-centred sustainable development". It had been designed to promote better understanding of the unique capacity of cooperatives to create productive employment, eradicate poverty and enhance social integration. The sponsors believed that the International Day of Cooperatives was a valuable way of raising awareness of the role of cooperatives. The draft resolution therefore invited Governments to continue to observe it annually. The sponsors trusted that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus, as in the past.

AGENDA ITEM 101: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued) (A/51/3 (Parts I and II), A/51/208-S/1996/543, A/51/327, 357 and 450)

AGENDA ITEM 102: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued) (A/51/3 (Parts I and II), A/51/68, 87, 93, A/51/129-E/1996/53, A/51/208-S/1996/543, A/51/295, 375, 436, 437 and 469)

AGENDA ITEM 158: QUESTION OF THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST ORGANIZED TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (continued) (A/C.3/51/7)

4. Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated States, namely, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and also on behalf of Iceland and Norway, said that the globalization of the world economy had allowed drug traffickers and organized criminals to operate on a much larger scale than

ever before, spreading corruption, undermining legitimate economic structures and threatening the security and stability of States. The extent of the problem was such that it could be combated only through a concerted effort by the international community.

5. The fight against money laundering must remain an important component of broader anti-drug and anti-crime strategies. Universal adherence to the relevant international instruments and, in particular, their full implementation, would greatly enhance the ability of national economies to withstand the financial threats resulting from criminal activities. The 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force constituted, in his view, the leading international initiative on money laundering and should therefore be adopted by all countries. In addition, greater use must be made of article 7 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, which established a framework for mutual legal assistance in the fight against money laundering.

6. The threat posed by drugs to both developed and developing countries had both grown and changed in nature. The traditional distinction between producer, transit and consumer countries had become blurred, with ever greater numbers of so-called producer and transit States experiencing drug addiction and its consequences within their own societies, while certain drugs and psychotropic substances were now being produced in the consumer States. At the same time, there was a new trend towards the use of synthetic substances, such as "ecstasy", which required a concerted international effort to control precursors and their substitutes used in the illicit manufacture of controlled substances.

7. Enforcement must, however, be complemented by education and demand-reduction initiatives addressing the social factors which led to drug addiction. Civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the mass media and sporting bodies, had an important role to play. Alternative development programmes were essential if the supply of drugs was to be reduced. Their ultimate aim must be the complete eradication of illicit crops. Drug-control activities should be an integral part of development strategies and, given the scale of spending required, there must be a rational division of labour between the various agencies involved. The European Union, for its part, was allowing agricultural and industrial products from certain Latin American countries to be imported into member States free of duty in order to support the diversification of their exports.

8. Within the European Union, the fight against drugs would be a central theme at the forthcoming European Council in Dublin. Recent anti-drug initiatives included agreements between the European Union and third countries on the identification, control and sale of precursors; memoranda of understanding between customs administrations and private-sector entities; and new measures to combat the importation of drugs by land, sea and air. In accordance with the Global Programme of Action, (General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex) the fight against drugs was an integral part of the Union's development cooperation policy. Accordingly, funding had been made available, under the Phare programme, for work with countries in Central and Eastern Europe, while a mechanism for cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean countries had also been established. It was important to obtain reliable information on which to

base decisions concerning drug-related issues. A European monitoring centre was carrying out a three-year programme to investigate the causes, extent and consequences of the drug problem in the Union. The Europol Convention would enhance cooperation between European police forces and their counterparts in other countries in the fight against drugs.

9. The special session of the General Assembly on international drug control to be held in 1998 would provide a valuable opportunity to review the progress made in implementing the Global Plan of Action and to develop it further in the light of experience. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the preparatory body, should ensure that there was high quality input from Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was playing an important part in coordinating anti-drug initiatives, while its experience in the field had enabled it to assist individual countries in planning drug-control measures suited to local conditions. However, the financial resources available to UNDCP were in no way commensurate with the growing number of tasks assigned to it, nor with the extent of the drug problem. There was a need to broaden the Programme's donor base since, at present, it was dependent on a very limited number of donors, with the European Union and its member States providing 75 per cent of all contributions. Similarly, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division required additional personnel and resources to enable it to respond to the increasing number of requests for technical assistance. Cooperation between the Division and UNDCP must be strengthened.

10. Turning to agenda item 101, he said that effective action against crime was one of the prerequisites for a stable society. However, all anti-crime measures must respect human rights. He welcomed, in that regard, the ongoing cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Some crimes were a cause for particular concern. He therefore commended the work of a recent conference in Vienna on trafficking in women and another in Stockholm on the sexual exploitation of children, and called upon the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to take full account of the outcomes of those important meetings.

11. The humane administration of justice and the observance of the rule of law were a fundamental component of development and the building of democratic institutions. Yet recent experience had shown that the criminal-justice system of a country was among the institutions that suffered most in conflict situations. A priority of peacekeeping operations must therefore be to re-establish a criminal-justice system capable of maintaining law and order while guaranteeing human rights.

12. The European Union was convinced of the need for international cooperation against organized transnational crime. He welcomed the decision by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to request the Secretary-General to consult with Governments regarding the possibility of elaborating a convention against organized transnational crime. He had noted with interest the draft United Nations framework convention against organized crime proposed by Poland (A/C.3/51/7) and called upon the working group of the Commission to examine that document in the light of the outcome of the Secretary-General's consultations with Governments. Corruption was an equally pernicious phenomenon

which must be rooted out wherever it occurred. The European Union was elaborating a draft convention on the subject and welcomed the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials (A/C.3/51/L.2), which the Economic and Social Council had recommended for adoption by the General Assembly.

13. The member States of the European Union firmly believed that all Governments should meet their citizens' need for security by improving substantially the means and instruments available to fight terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking and by enhancing international cooperation to that end.

14. Mr. BORDA (Colombia) said that the problem of illicit drugs was currently an international priority requiring full implementation of the United Nations anti-drug strategy; the individualist approach, which had failed to solve a worldwide problem, must end. While national efforts to address drug trafficking and related crimes were necessary, full international cooperation was the ideal approach. In response to the increasingly sophisticated methods employed by drug traffickers and the level of organization of transnational crime, current trends towards reducing resources for international cooperation must be reversed. A world strategy against drugs had been developed, but its results left a great deal to be desired. Drug abuse continued to increase steadily; deaths related to substance abuse had increased threefold in the past decade; and in some countries, the consumption of synthetic drugs was more than five times that of cocaine and heroin together. It was essential to work together to modernize cooperation mechanisms, to implement them more efficiently, and to complement them with new initiatives. All Governments should be committed to that effort.

15. Shared responsibility was vital for the fulfilment of the international community's obligation to address the multiple aspects of the drug problem. Just as the most successful enterprises had been restructured to make them more efficient than their rivals, the United Nations should make its anti-drug strategy more competitive at the national and international levels.

16. In Colombia, draft laws had been submitted to Congress to increase penalties for drug trafficking and related offences and to expedite judicial assistance to foreign authorities for the seizure of assets arising from illegal activities such as drug trafficking. The Cali drug cartel had been destroyed and its leaders brought to trial. In the interests of more effective investigation and punishment of money laundering, the judicial and financial authorities had established agreements for improved detection and information exchange. Programmes for drug-abuse prevention and rehabilitation of addicts were being strengthened. A wide programme of eradication of coca plants, poppies and marijuana crops continued to be carried out, and continued efforts were being made to obtain additional resources through international cooperation to complement those already invested in the country's alternative development programme, which constituted an economically sustainable solution for peasant and indigenous families, and a long-term solution for elimination of the illicit supply of drugs.

17. Many such efforts were being made by various States, but were not coordinated; cooperation and complementarity in such programmes were vital if

satisfactory results were to be achieved from the worldwide strategy against drugs. His Government reiterated its offer to convene a high-level governmental group of experts to give inputs to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its capacity as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998. All initiatives aimed at strengthening international cooperation in the fight against drugs would be welcome.

18. Mr. GIROUX (Canada) said that Canada had long recognized that combating drug abuse and trafficking required international cooperation and better-coordinated action on the part of Governments and regional and multilateral organizations. The cost of the worsening global drug situation was enormous. A Canadian study published recently estimated that in 1992 the drug problem had cost Canada over $1 billion.

19. Canada had first launched its coordinated anti-drug initiative in 1987. Its main goal was to reduce the harm caused by substance abuse to individuals, families and communities by means of a balanced approach by reducing demand while controlling supply. Programmes for demand reduction had raised awareness of the effects of drug abuse and limited the growth of drug consumption in some social groups. Abuse of alcohol and a range of other drugs among school children had fallen. Progress had also been made on limiting supply, and seizures of drugs at the country's borders had increased dramatically. However, getting at the organized criminals who trafficked in drugs was more complicated. Legislation passed in 1989 permitted the seizure of assets derived from criminal activity such as drug trafficking. That was intended to enable law-enforcement officers to reach beyond the street level and to close down the traffickers' operations. In 1992 it had been found that, although drug abuse in the general population had decreased, it had worsened in specific groups; moreover, drug traffickers had become more sophisticated. The Government had reviewed its drug strategy, focusing on the more vulnerable groups such as young people, women, seniors and indigenous peoples, and had directed more resources to law enforcement and border interdiction.

20. Three special pilot units had been set up, dedicated to proceeds-of-crime investigations. They had succeeded in disrupting the operations of major organized criminal groups, bringing about a large number of arrests. Consideration was being given to increasing the number of such units.

21. Canada believed that the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998 would be an important occasion for the international community to confirm its commitment to combating drug abuse and to improve the coordination of anti-drug activities.

22. All States should be concerned about drug production and trafficking wherever it occurred, since drugs produced in one country or region could find their way around the world. The international community should take a balanced look at refining anti-drug strategies, with equal emphasis on demand reduction, supply reduction, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, training, research, community action and enforcement. Canada strongly supported efforts to produce a declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction. In a period when resources were declining, the best use must be made of available opportunities. The next two sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs could, with focus and

discipline, be used effectively to prepare for the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly.

23. Miss GORDON (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the 13 States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) which were Members of the United Nations, said that she would highlight the issue of drug control, which was a central concern in the region. Given their location on the maritime routes between the major production and consumption centres, the CARICOM countries had witnessed the increasing use of their territorial waters, airspace and land mass by drug traffickers, often operating in cartels. Trans-shipment had led in turn to rising levels of drug abuse, accompanied by the growth of violent and organized crime. As a result, the Governments of the CARICOM States had been forced to commit an increasing share of their scarce resources to law enforcement and the treatment of addicts, to the detriment of other sectors such as social development. Recently, they had adopted a plan of action on drug-control coordination and cooperation in the Caribbean.

24. The CARICOM States were aware that a country's economy could easily come under the control of drug traffickers and other criminal groups if the problems of corruption and money laundering were not properly addressed. Some States had made money laundering a criminal offence, while others were drafting legislation to allow the confiscation of assets derived from drug trafficking. All the CARICOM States were working in close collaboration with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force.

25. Owing to their small size, CARICOM nations had always joined forces to share information and to instigate joint action on drug control. That principle worked even better when applied at the international level. CARICOM had therefore intensified its intraregional cooperation with the continued assistance of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), which had assisted in the organization of regional workshops and seminars to train law enforcement officials in such area as precursor control, investigation techniques and intelligence gathering and analysis. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, progress had been made in elaborating a hemispheric strategy to combat drug trafficking and related crimes; bilateral cooperation programmes were also ongoing with Canada and the United States.

26. During recent deliberations in the Economic and Social Council, it had become obvious that there was much coordination at the subregional, regional and intraregional levels, but less at the international level. As a result, member States were not able to get a holistic picture of the status of the global fight against drugs, but only views of the situation from the perspectives of each region, subregion and country. That gave a fragmented and often conflicting picture of the global situation, made worse by the lack of harmonization among regions and the varying approaches adopted by them.

27. CARICOM member States supported the recommendation that a special session of the General Assembly should be held. They would particularly welcome discussion of the reduction of demand for drugs, eradication of illicit crops, alternative development, and strengthening of the United Nations machinery for international drug control.

28. In response to the increasingly sophisticated methods used by drug traffickers, many States were reacting in frustration by taking unilateral action, which sometimes undermined existing cooperation with other States. All Governments should strengthen their commitments to multilateralism and concerted action.

29. In terms of law enforcement activities, a consensus seemed to be emerging for an urgent re-examination of methods currently used in the fight against drugs. In the light of the detailed accounts already given by many States regarding their national efforts, and the limited success achieved, it was clearly desirable to make better use of innovative techniques and advances in technology to counter the intelligence capabilities of the drug cartels. That question, including the possibility of rendering further technical assistance to developing countries, should be thoroughly examined during the proposed special session.

30. CARICOM Governments continued to be seriously alarmed at the linkage between the illicit drug trade and the trade in arms. States which manufactured and sold arms should devote greater attention to strengthening their internal control measures to prevent the illegal export of weapons, particularly to Caribbean and other developing countries. All States engaged in the fight against the illicit drug trade should adhere to the principle that there could be no justification of violating the principles of international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations. It was gratifying that States were gradually moving towards increased cooperation in international drug control efforts. Governments must resist the urge to revert to outmoded practices, which could bring about a new era of mistrust among States and hamper global efforts. The prevailing mood among Member States to deal aggressively with the drug trade presented the international community with a precious opportunity in its efforts to eliminate that scourge.

31. Mr. JASSAN (Argentina), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, said that the Commission was one of the most important forums within the United Nations system and had fulfilled its mandate with a reasonable degree of success during its first five years of existence. It must continue to confront with realism and determination the challenges from new types of criminal activity. Recently, the Commission had received increasing numbers of mandates and requests from both the 1994 World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime and the 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. From the operational point of view, positive results were being achieved through close cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and UNDCP particularly in the areas of money laundering and legal assistance to States.

32. Technical cooperation had an essential role to play in improving the ability of States, particularly the developing countries, to deal with crime. The resources available to the Division had been reduced as a result of the cost-cutting measures implemented throughout the United Nations budget. Those resources, which had always been modest, no longer made possible a sufficient response to the numerous requests for assistance from States. The regular-

budget resources for technical cooperation should be increased in line with the rapidly growing demand for assistance. The Commission had expressed on a number of occasions the need to strengthen the Division's human resources. Regrettably, for budgetary reasons, the two additional posts which had been planned had not been filled, and the Division was operating with fewer resources than in the previous year.

33. Speaking as the representative of Argentina, he said that the Commission could become a useful instrument when Governments negotiated with flexibility, good faith and commitment. His delegation supported the content of the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security (A/C.3/51/L.3), which the Economic and Social Council had recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. The various measures proposed in the Declaration would improve the effectiveness of Governments' efforts in the struggle against criminal activities of all kinds.

34. Corruption, in its various manifestations, was spreading through many countries, organizations and activities. It led to economic destabilization and undermined State institutions. The international community had reacted promptly: a number of agreements had been reached within international organizations including the Organization of American States, the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The time had come for global action through concertation by all Member States to deal with the corrupt practices afflicting their societies. He welcomed the recent statements by the governing bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

35. His country had eliminated "structural corruption" and the Government was determined to eradicate all cases of individual corruption at the various levels of State institutions. Argentina had worked seriously on the elaboration of the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials (A/C.3/51/L.2) and fully supported the elaboration of an implementation plan in that regard. It had offered to be the host country for a meeting of a group of experts to elaborate such a plan and revise the manual on practical measures.

36. In recent years, his delegation had stressed in various forums the need for the international community to address the problem of organized transnational crime and had submitted a proposal at the 1994 Naples Conference on the elaboration of a general convention on that question. In view of the new forms of such crime, there was a need for urgent action by Member States. The countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region had taken the first steps towards identifying a number of elements to be included in such a convention. His delegation therefore fully supported the submission by Poland of a draft framework convention against organized crime (A/C.3/51/7). That document constituted a minimal basis for beginning work within the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

37. Although all delegations condemned terrorism, there were serious obstacles to reaching agreement on basic principles. Nevertheless, Governments should endeavour to agree on essential elements as soon as possible in order to make progress in that field. His country attached importance to the work of elaborating an international convention against illicit trafficking in minors in

view of the widespread nature of that problem and the lack of legislation dealing with it. The Commission had made progress in that regard and he hoped that agreement could be reached on basic criteria for drawing up a convention to provide adequate protection to minors.

38. Mr. CHANG SEE TEN (Malaysia) called for greater coordination by the world community in its efforts to combat international crime. Mechanisms for sharing information and intelligence should be upgraded. In that connection, he welcomed the recommendations of the Ninth United Nations Crime Congress concerning international cooperation. Malaysia believed that countries that were parties to the various international conventions must implement them and strongly supported the establishment of an international criminal court. The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security (A/C.3/51/L.3) would be a step forward. Malaysia supported the proposal to increase resource allocations to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, commensurate with the demands placed on it.

39. Drug trafficking could be reduced through concerted international efforts based on supply and demand reduction by preventing the movement of drugs and conducting effective drug-rehabilitation programmes. In view of the ever-changing nature of the drug threat, the strategy to combat the illicit production, trafficking and distribution of drugs should be continually reviewed. Anti-drug measures must follow a comprehensive, ongoing, balanced and multidisciplinary approach.

40. Renewed efforts were necessary to address the social and economic aspects of the problem. Alternative economic activities and alternative crops should be introduced. Malaysia had embarked on a long-term strategy to combat drug trafficking through a demand- and supply-reduction programme. A mandatory drug-treatment and rehabilitation programme had begun. Legislation had been enacted, and state and federation bodies had stepped up cooperation in order to stem the flow of drugs. The National Drug Information System had been established to monitor and plan prevention programmes. At the regional level, Malaysia had been cooperating with other ASEAN members to combat the drug menace. Together with them and with support from UNDP, his country had identified preventive drug education, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement and research as priority areas for reducing drug abuse and trafficking.

41. Mr. SHI Weiqiang (China) noted with satisfaction that Member States had been calling for intensified efforts against drug-related crime and for enhanced international cooperation in drug-control activities. China supported the convening of a special session of the General Assembly on international drug control, which should set forth clear strategic goals and measures giving impetus to the worldwide efforts to counter the drug problem. All the necessary preparations should be made to ensure the success of the special session. Combating drugs should be a priority on the United Nations agenda. The international community should enhance cooperation and take more effective measures in combating the illicit supply, demand, production, marketing and trafficking of drugs and against smuggling and money laundering in order to eliminate the damage done to the social development and economies of various States.

42. Shared responsibility among producing, consumer and transit States and joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels were required. To that end, developing countries should receive more technical and financial assistance through international cooperation. However, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States should be strictly respected in efforts to combat drug abuse; no interference in another State's internal affairs on the pretext of cooperation should be allowed.

43. The Chinese Government accorded high priority to drug control and was earnestly implementing the Global Programme of Action by prohibiting illicit trafficking, cultivation and consumption and attacking the root causes of drug abuse. Special attention was paid to strengthening regulations on licit narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors to prevent their diversion. China had been cooperating with UNDCP and with other States. Formidable tasks, however, remained, including the elimination of drug trafficking in the "Golden Triangle". His country would continue to strengthen its drug control measures and participate in regional and international cooperation and hoped that the international community would provide it with more support for that effort.

44. Mr. HAMIDA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that he welcomed the international community's efforts to coordinate and strengthen international cooperation in the fight against organized crime. With regard to the draft United Nations framework convention against organized crime submitted by Poland in document A/C.3/51/7, there were a number of points on which he sought clarification.

45. In article 1, which defined "organized crime", the basic elements comprising a crime did not appear clear. An arbitrary figure was given for the minimum number of people in a group which would allow their activity to be defined as "organized". The meaning of the term "personal relationships" was not clear, nor why the earning of profits by their leaders rather than anyone else should make the crime "organized". Nor was it clear how those persons established control over internal or foreign markets, and what markets were meant, nor how they could infiltrate the legitimate economy. The definition of "organized crime" contained terms on which the international community was not agreed, such as "terrorist acts": he wondered what acts exactly were meant by that. He also wondered what was meant by the "illicit traffic in or stealing of motor vehicles" referred to in draft article 1. The draft gave no clear definition of transnational crime, and paragraph 2 of article 1 was unclear: clarification was needed of the terms "act", "group" and "organization". Articles 4 and 6 would need further study, and there was a contradiction between the two paragraphs of article 8.

46. The great importance of the subject made it imperative to give those matters serious consideration. Since the Committee might not have sufficient time in which to consider the matter, it should perhaps be assigned to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

47. Mr. DONOKUSUMO (Indonesia) said his delegation had noted the considerable progress made in recent years towards increasing cooperation and commitment among the international community in order to forge an effective crime programme. Money laundering was an example of the serious questions that needed

to be resolved by the international community, as had been stressed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/27, on follow-up to the Naples Conference. Solutions could only be found through international cooperation, and developing countries would be in a better position to contribute, given proper technical assistance and advisory services, which were also necessary in order to facilitate a response to the many other challenges of both national and transnational crime.

48. With regard to firearms regulation, initiated by the Ninth United Nations Crime Congress, his delegation supported the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1996/28 of the preparation of a survey and country reports on that issue. His delegation also supported the Council's request to the Secretary-General in resolution 1996/27 to continue collecting and analysing information on the structure, dynamics and other aspects of all forms of organized transnational crime. The establishment of a central repository for national legislation, information on the organizational structures designed to combat organized transnational crime and instruments for international cooperation would greatly facilitate the international anti-crime effort.

49. At the national level, his Government had drafted a new penal code that included provisions against money laundering. Gun control laws had kept the rate of crimes involving firearms to a low level. A national standing committee had been established in order to coordinate efforts against transnational crime, and the establishment of the central repository of information would greatly assist efforts. Through its work in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and in other forums, Indonesia would continue to work with the international community in order to strengthen cooperation and implement a successful anti-crime programme.

50. Substantial progress in activities to combat organized transnational crime could only be made if technical cooperation and the advisory services of the United Nations were available, and as long as the operational activities of the crime prevention programme continued to be improved. But the programme must be provided with the resources it needed. It was therefore encouraging that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was moving to address the problem, and had established an informal consultative group which would report annually on activities undertaken and results achieved. The momentum required for an effective response to crime must be maintained.

51. Mr. SÁNDOR (Hungary) said that his delegation associated itself with the position set out by the representative of Ireland on behalf of the European Union and associated countries.

52. Transnational organized crime posed a serious threat to civilized societies throughout the world. In order to preserve the international legal order and the achievements of democracy and development, more concerted and sustained efforts were required. Hungary supported any substantive joint international initiatives, convinced that only a universal effort coordinated by the United Nations through its crime-prevention mechanisms could combat transnational organized crime. Deeply concerned about the rising level of crime in many parts of the world, jeopardizing political stability and the internal and external security of States, his country supported the draft United Nations framework

convention against organized crime submitted by Poland (A/C.3/51/7), and other relevant initiatives.

53. Regional and interregional cooperation should be enhanced in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice. In that respect, Hungary was playing an active role in the fight against the growing new challenge of illegal migration, a vector of transnational crime. His country had modified its penal code in order to deal with such new challenges.

54. Concerted international cooperation was necessary in order to tackle drug abuse and trafficking. His country, while still not a major consumer of hard drugs, was an important transit route. Two thirds of the heroin seized in Europe and originating from South-West Asia had been trafficked along the Balkan route. One tenth of European seizures were made by the Hungarian law-enforcement authorities in cooperation with those of other countries, indicating the magnitude of the threat that was faced.

55. In February 1996 the Hungarian Parliament had ratified the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, thereby expressing its determination to prevent the country from becoming a significant area for distribution and consumption. A national strategy against drug abuse was being prepared, a well-functioning network of local drug prevention committees had been established, and a national data collection system covering law enforcement, justice and treatment was now operational. Hungary, in common with other Central European countries, had received valuable support from UNDCP and from donor countries, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Prague in 1995. Several major projects were being implemented in the region relating to information exchange, law enforcement and the enhancement of the operational capability of the drug-related institutions of the region. Hungary had expressed its support for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly on international drug control, and was prepared to examine any proposal intended to make those efforts successful.

56. Ms. AKICHEVA (Kazakstan) said that drug trafficking was a more serious threat for States undergoing a period of transition, where the uneven pace of economic and structural reforms created favourable conditions for criminal elements. Accordingly, she stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations as a basic coordinating centre for combating crime in all its forms. It was extremely important to continue cooperation on the basis of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action against Organized Transnational Crime. Her delegation also favoured the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security (A/C.3/51/L.3) and the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials (A/C.3/51/L.2), as recommended by the Economic and Social Council. She noted with appreciation the submission by Poland of a draft United Nations framework convention against organized crime (A/C.3/51/7), which should be given very careful consideration, and also stressed the need to increase financial support for the activities of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

57. Illicit drug trafficking was the most serious form of criminal activity in Kazakstan, which was not only a major base for the illegal production of

narcotic drugs, but also a transit point for smuggling drugs to Europe. Her Government had established the State Narcotics Control Commission and was taking measures to strengthen law enforcement, including the establishment of a department to combat illicit drug trafficking.

58. Together with the other States of Central Asia, Kazakstan had recently signed a memorandum of cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), which provided for a regional strategy to coordinate cooperation and for programmes to combat illicit drug trafficking.

59. She expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by UNDCP and the International Narcotics Control Board. Her Government attached great importance to expanding cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies and would provide all-round support for their activities in the Republic. Lastly, Kazakstan supported the convening of a special session of the General Assembly on international drug control, which should make it possible to fund the mechanisms for international cooperation in that field.

60. Mr. KRLIU (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said his delegation welcomed the proposed special session of the General Assembly in 1998 on international drug control, and supported the draft United Nations framework convention against organized crime submitted by Poland (A/C.3/51/7). His country played an active role in international efforts to control illicit drugs, and had acceded to all the relevant international conventions. In order to implement the provisions of those conventions through national legislation, his Government had adopted a national strategy to combat drug abuse, designed to modernize legislation to international legal standards, coordinate and monitor activities, create an information database, and devise a preventive strategy that would prioritize public education on the drug issue. Parliament had adopted a new criminal code, and laws on narcotics, money laundering and other related matters would be adopted. The establishment of the legal framework was an important precondition for success. At the international level, special attention should be given to the harmonization of criminal law and police procedures, which would facilitate coordination among different countries.

61. The constant growth of crime, with its dangerous new forms and transnational dimension, in many parts of the world represented a destabilizing threat to fundamental social, economic and political institutions, especially of those countries in transition, and endangered international security. The problem was global, and was rapidly becoming critical. In accordance with internationally adopted criteria, priority should be given to incorporating international legal standards in national legislation. His Government had therefore endorsed special programmes to combat crime - including organized crime - corruption in the administration and money laundering. An information database had also been established, thereby facilitating the international exchange of information. Emphasis was placed on increasing public awareness in order to increase participation in preventive strategies.

62. Mr. MANZ (Observer for Switzerland) said that his country gave high priority to the fight against illicit trafficking in drugs and drug abuse, and that those problems must be addressed by means of a multidisciplinary and balanced strategy. The country's drug policy was therefore based upon the

prevention of drug abuse, reduction, treatment, and the repression of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering. Despite every effort, problems relating to illicit drugs were on the increase throughout the world. That should only strengthen the determination to assess current national and international strategies and find more effective instruments and means to tackle the problem. The supply of and demand for illicit drugs were interdependent. Countries which had previously been transit territories had witnessed an alarming growth in consumption. The drug problem was global and could not be solved exclusively within national borders.

63. Legalization was not a solution. In Switzerland, tobacco and alcohol abuse caused far more problems than illegal drugs. It would therefore be inappropriate to put drugs with a higher addictive potential than that of legal drugs at the disposal of all.

64. The main difficulty in controlling illicit drugs was that well-organized, well-financed and closely-knit criminal cartels had flexible mechanisms, were capable of threatening entire States and did not hesitate to corrupt officials in order to reach their goals. On the other hand, the international law-enforcement authorities sought a consensus on each question, even if the procedure took years, and had difficulty in financing their anti-drug activities. Only a united international community could meet the challenge.

65. In the face of new trends, such as designer-drug abuse, the international community must remain vigilant. Designer drugs were mostly stimulants, such as amphetamines and "ecstasy". Experts estimated that global production and trafficking in stimulants had increased at a greater rate than that of heroin and cocaine, probably because production of such drugs was relatively simple and the chemicals used in their manufacture were cheap and easily available. Young people considered them fashionable, and lack of data meant the health risks associated with abuse were poorly understood, and prevention and treatment activities were hindered. His country had therefore decided to give financial support to the World Health Organization in order to enable it to hold an international conference and assist the international community in order to counter that new challenge.

66. His Government gave high priority to international drug control and was a party to a number of relevant conventions. His delegation hoped that the special session of the General Assembly in 1998 would lead to better international collaboration with regard to drugs and intensify the fight against illicit trafficking.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.